

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC 7 601R33/3875

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 IPC 7 601R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, INSPEC, BIOSIS

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 111 146 A (KUHN MICHAEL H) 5 May 1992 (1992-05-05) column 2, line 14 -column 3, line 50; figures 1,2	1-4,6-8
Y	US 5 121 060 A (DODDRELL DAVID M ET AL) 9 June 1992 (1992-06-09) column 2, line 23 -column 5, line 9; figures 1,3,4	1-8
Y	EP 0 547 917 A (VARIAN ASSOCIATES) 23 June 1993 (1993-06-23) column 3, line 46 -column 5, line 25; figures 2-5	1-8
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date

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"P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"A" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

20 August 2004

Date of mailing of the International search report

31/08/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 01, 29 January 1999 (1999-01-29) -&amp; JP 10 262948 A (HITACHI MEDICAL CORP), 6 October 1998 (1998-10-06) abstract -----</p>	<p>1, 3-5, 7, 8</p>

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US 5111146	A	05-05-1992	DE	3917619 A1	06-12-1990
			EP	0400733 A2	05-12-1990
			JP	3162832 A	12-07-1991
US 5121060	A	09-06-1992	AU	611231 B2	06-06-1991
			AU	2559088 A	01-06-1989
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			EP	0547917 A1	23-06-1993
			JP	3327603 B2	24-09-2002
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